

Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IO-13 OES-06 EB-07 /108 W

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R 211245Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2669

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 10259

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KE

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER CHIDES PRESS FOR ANTI-ARAB LINE

1. NAIROBI STANDARD SEPTEMBER 20 CARRIES LENGTHY ARTICLE BY FONMIN WAIYAKI ENTITLED KENYA'S FOREIGN POLICY GUIDELINES. IN IT WAIYAKI CASTIGATES LOCAL PRESS (DAILY NATION) FOR ANTI-ARAB EDITORIAL POSITIONS TAKEN RECENTLY IN CONNECTION WITH OAU, ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE, OIL PRICES AND AID FROM THE ARAB WORLD, AND THE PRESENCE OF AN ARAB LEAGUE MISSION IN NAIROBI. THRUST OF THE PIECE IS THAT KENYA PRESS, IN PRINTING ANTI-ARAB MATERIALS, HAS CREATED SERIOUS DIPLOMATIC AND FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS FOR KENYA WITH ARAB NATIONS. IN WAIYAKI'S WORDS, PRESS ATTACKS "...EMBARRASS US AND ARE USED BY OUR ENEMIES TO ISOLATE KENYA INTERNATIONALLY." (TEXT OF ARTICLE POUCHED TO AF/E).

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2. ARAB AMBASSADORS ACCREDITED HERE CALLED TOGETHER ON

WAIYAKI SHORTLY AFTER HIS RETURN FROM THE COLOMBO NAM SUMMIT, SOUTH KOREA AND INDIA A FEW WEEKS AGO. WHILE WHAT TRANSPIRED AT THAT METING WAS NOT REPORTED LOCALLY, IT NOW APPEARS THAT AMBASSADORS USED OCCASION TO COMPLAIN ABOUT PRESS TREATMENT HERE AND TO SEEK REDRESS.

3. WE SURMISE THAT WAIYAKI'S OBJECTIVES IN HAVING THE ARTICLE PUBLISHED WERE TWOFOLD: 1) TO CONTRIBUTE TO KENYA'S RHETORICAL EFFORT TO RETAIN SOME CREDIBILITY IN THIRD WORLD CIRCLES. CONTENTS OF HIS ARTICLE FOLLOW STANDARD THIRD WORLD LINES; AND 2) TO ENCOURAGE ARABS TO GIVE KENYA A LARGER SLICE OF THEIR AID AND INVESTMENT. ARTICLE POINTS OUT THAT IF KENYA HAS BEEN A MINOR RECIPIENT OF ARAB LARGESSE SINCE 1970 IT IS BECAUSE IT HAS NOT MADE A "CONCERTED EFFORT" IN THE ARAB WORLD.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE WAIYAKI'S RHETORIC, THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE GOK HAS ALTERED ITS BASIC THINKING ABOUT ARAB RELATED ISSUES. MEMORY OF ARAB SUPPORT FOR UGANDA DURING AND AFTER ENTEBBE CRISIS IS STILL FRESH IN KENYA. MOREOVER, EDITOR OF DAILY NATION (WHO RETURNED IN JULY FROM RED CARPET TOUR OF ISRAEL) IS UNLIKELY TO CHANGE HIS TUNE TO SUIT FOREIGN MINISTER.
MARSHALL

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